

## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

18 March 2016

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### **NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY (NOA); LOW THREAT GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER R5-2013-0074; PG&E NATURAL GAS PIPELINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT, R-502, LIVE OAK, CA; SUTTER COUNTY**

Our office received a Notice of Intent (NOI) on 8 December 2015 from Pacific Gas and Electric Company (hereinafter Discharger) for its PG&E Natural Gas Pipeline Replacement Project, R-502, Live Oak, CA (Project). Based on the information in the NOI, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) staff has determined that the project meets the required conditions for approval under the General Order for *Dewatering and Other Low Threat Discharges to Surface Waters* (Low Threat General Order). This project is hereby assigned Low Threat General Order R5-2013-0074-154 and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CAG995001. Please reference unique Order **R5-2013-0074-154** in all future correspondence and documents.

The enclosed Low Threat General Order may also be viewed at the following web address: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/general\\_orders/r5-2013-0074.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2013-0074.pdf). You are urged to familiarize yourself with the contents of the entire document. The Low Threat General Order prescribes mandatory discharge monitoring and reporting requirements. The project activities shall be operated in accordance with the requirements contained in this NOA, the Low Threat General Order, and with the information submitted by the Discharger.

### **CALIFORNIA TOXICS RULE / STATE IMPLEMENTATION POLICY MONITORING**

The Low Threat General Order incorporates the requirements of the California Toxics Rule (CTR) and the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board), *Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California, 2005*, also known as the State Implementation Policy (SIP). Screening levels for CTR constituents are found in Attachment B of the Low Threat General Order. Review of your water quality data in comparison to the CTR screening values showed no reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an instream exceedance of the CTR criteria in the Receiving Water.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project is located in the city of Live Oak, Sutter County, California. It involves the installation of approximately 4,735-feet of new 8-inch natural gas pipeline on Line 050A. The new pipeline section will be installed beginning at the intersection of Hall Drive and Nevada Street, extending east along Nevada Street, south along Larkin Road, west along Archer

Avenue, south along Live Oak Boulevard, and terminating at the intersection of Live Oak Boulevard and Ash Street.

Pipeline construction will include open trench and borings. The Discharger has existing coverage under General Order 2003-0003-DWQ-0145, Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dischargers to Land with a Low Threat to Water Quality, to discharge to approximately 33 acres of agricultural land (Sutter County APN 08-100-026 and 08-100-067). It is anticipated that the dewatering of the bore pit excavations and trenches will be necessary if there is not enough capacity to discharge to land with an estimated flow rate of up to 50,000 gallons per day for the duration of the project. The flow rate may decrease as the surrounding water level is lowered. It is anticipated that dewatering will begin on or after 18 March 2016 and may be required intermittently until 31 May 2016 to complete construction.

The Discharger will place sediment screens in the dewatering wells or in the bottom of the trench to limit soil particulates in the excavation groundwater. The groundwater will then be conveyed via temporary PVC pipeline to a series of settling tanks staged as needed along the pipeline alignment to allow for sedimentation. Settled groundwater will then be pumped through particulate filters, injected with sodium hypochlorite, and then filtered through a manganese greensand filter, where chlorine is added to maintain the greensand adsorption capacity. The groundwater is then pumped through activated carbon filtration for organics and residual chlorine removal. Clay may be used as the final unit process for trace metals removal.

The Discharger will construct a temporary PVC pipeline from the filtration system to the City of Live Oak storm drain inlets on Larkin Road. The proposed discharge locations on Larkin Road are Storm Drain 1 and Storm Drain 2 (EFF-001 and EFF-002, respectively) and the proposed geographic coordinates are listed in Table E-1 below. The discharged groundwater will travel inside the City of Live Oak's storm sewer system approximately 1.1 miles south where it intersects with the Reclamation District Number 777 main drainage canal. The Reclamation District Number 777 main drainage canal continues south ultimately discharging into the Sutter Bypass East Interceptor Canal.

#### **MONITORING AND REPORTING**

The Discharger must notify Central Valley Water Board staff 24 hours 1) before the start of each new discharge, 2) as soon as noncompliance is anticipated, and 3) when the discharge ceases. The Discharger must submit quarterly reports, as described in Attachment E, Section X of the Low Threat General Order, even if there is no discharge or receiving water flow during the reporting quarter, until the Discharger formally requests that coverage under the Order be terminated.

**Monitoring Locations** – The Discharger shall monitor the effluent at the specified locations as follows:

**Table E-1. Monitoring Station Locations**

Discharge Point Name	Monitoring Location Name	Monitoring Location Description
001	EFF-001	A location where a representative sample of the effluent can be collected prior to discharging to Storm Drain 1 (N 39° 6' 53.78", W 121° 39'3 5.67").
002	EFF-002	A location where a representative sample of the effluent can be collected prior to discharging to the Storm Drain 2 (N 39° 16' 47.55", W 121° 39'3 6.07").

**Effluent Monitoring** – The Discharger shall monitor the effluent at EFF-001 as follows:

**Table E-2. Effluent Monitoring – Discharges Less than 4 Months in Duration**

Parameter	Units	Sample Type	Minimum Sampling Frequency <sup>1,2</sup>	Required Analytical Test Method
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (5-Day @ 20 °C)	mg/L	Grab	2/Month	3
Chlorine, Total Residual	mg/L	Grab	1/Discharge Event	3,4,5
Electrical Conductivity @ 25 °C	µmhos/cm	Grab	2/Month	3
pH	standard units	Grab	2/Month	3
Settleable Solids	mL/L	Grab	2/Month	3
Total Suspended Solids	mg/L	Grab	2/Month	3

<sup>1</sup> If the discharge is intermittent rather than continuous, then on the first day of each such intermittent discharge, the Discharger shall monitor and record data for all of the constituents listed above, after which the frequencies of analysis given in the schedule shall apply for the duration of each such intermittent discharge. In no event shall the Discharger be required to monitor and record data more often than twice the frequencies listed in the table.

<sup>2</sup> The first sample shall be collected at the start of discharge.

<sup>3</sup> Pollutants shall be analyzed using the analytical methods described in 40 CFR Part 136.

<sup>4</sup> A handheld field meter may be used, provided the meter utilizes a USEPA-approved algorithm/method and is calibrated and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. A calibration and maintenance log for each meter used for monitoring required by this Monitoring and Reporting Program shall be maintained at the Facility.

<sup>5</sup> Total chlorine residual must be monitored with a method sensitive to and accurate at a reporting level of 0.08 mg/L, or any more stringent reporting level included in a final statewide policy or standard for total residual chlorine.

**Receiving Water Monitoring** – Receiving water monitoring is not required. Treated groundwater will be discharged to the City of Live Oak subsurface storm drain system where the project groundwater discharge will combine with surface drainage and the combined flows are discharged to the receiving water. Receiving water monitoring would reflect the effects of the combined discharges and would not represent the effects of the discharge covered under this NOA. Therefore, compliance with receiving water limitations will be determined through effluent monitoring.

**Monitoring Report Submittals** - Monitoring in accordance with the Low Threat General Order shall begin upon initiation of discharge. Monitoring reports shall be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board on a quarterly basis, beginning with the First Quarter of 2016. This report shall be submitted on 1 May 2016. If monitoring samples were not obtained within 24 hours of initiation of the discharge, the Discharger must document the reasons in the corresponding monitoring report. If the discharge has not begun there is no need to monitor. However, a monitoring report must be submitted stating that there has been no discharge. Table E-3, below,

summarizes the monitoring report due dates required under the Low Threat General Order. Quarterly monitoring reports must be submitted until your coverage is formally terminated in accordance with the Low Threat General Order, even if there is no discharge during the reporting quarter.

**Table E-3. Monitoring Periods and Reporting Schedule**

<b>Sampling Frequency</b>	<b>Monitoring Period Begins On...</b>	<b>Quarterly Report Due Date</b>
1/Discharge Event, Continuous, 2/Week, 1/Month, 2/Month, 1/Quarter	First Day of Discharge	1 May (1 Jan – 31 Mar) 1 Aug (1 Apr – 30 Jun) 1 Nov (1 Jul – 30 Sep) 1 Feb, of following year (1 Oct – 31 Dec)

### **GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS**

The Central Valley Water Board shall be notified immediately if any effluent limit violation is observed during implementation of the project.

Discharge of material other than what is described in the application is prohibited. The required annual fee (as specified in the annual billing you will receive from the State Water Resources Control Board) shall be submitted until the discharge is terminated. To terminate coverage under the Low Threat General Order, the Discharger must submit written notification to the Central Valley Water Board that the discharge regulated by this Low Threat General Order has ceased and is no longer necessary. If a timely written request is not received, then the Discharger will be required to pay additional annual fees as determined by the State Water Resources Control Board.

### **ENFORCEMENT**

Failure to comply with the Low Threat General Order may result in enforcement actions, which could include civil liability. Effluent limitation violations are subject to discretionary penalties of up to \$10,000 per violation and to Mandatory Minimum Penalties (MMPs) of \$3,000 per violation. In addition, late monitoring reports are subject to both discretionary and mandatory penalties. When discharges do not occur during a quarterly report monitoring period, the Discharger must still submit a quarterly monitoring report indicating that no discharge occurred to avoid being subject to enforcement actions.

### **COMMUNICATION**

All documents, including monitoring reports, response to inspections, written notifications, and documents submitted to comply with this NOA and the Low Threat General Order, should be submitted to the NPDES Compliance unit, attention Alejandra Serratos. Ms. Serratos can be reached at (916) 464-4634 or [Alejandra.Serratos@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Alejandra.Serratos@waterboards.ca.gov).

We have transitioned to a paperless office, therefore, please convert all documents to a searchable Portable Document Format (pdf) and email them to [centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov). Please include the following information in the email: Attention: NPDES Compliance section; Discharger: Pacific Gas and Electric Company; Facility: PG&E Natural Gas Pipeline Replacement Project, R-502, Live Oak, CA; County: Sutter County; and the CIWQS place ID 821098 in the body of the email. Documents that are 50

megabytes or larger must be transferred to a DVD, or flash drive and mailed to our office, attention "ECM Mailroom-NPDES". Please include the attached Monitoring Report Transmittal Form as the first page of each monitoring report.

Questions regarding the permitting aspects of this Low Threat General Order, and written notification for termination of coverage under the Low Threat General Order, shall be directed to Josh Palmer of the Central Valley Water Board's NPDES Permitting Unit. Mr. Palmer can be reached at (916) 464-4674 or [Joshua.Palmer@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Joshua.Palmer@waterboards.ca.gov).

Any person aggrieved by this action of the Central Valley Water Board may petition the State Water Board to review the action in accordance with California Water Code section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 2050 and following. The State Water Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m., 30 days after the date of this NOA, except that if the thirtieth day following the date of this Order falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, the petition must be received by the State Water Board by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day. Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions may be found on the internet at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public\\_notices/petitions/water\\_quality](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality) or will be provided upon request.

***Original signed by Adam Laputz for***

Pamela C. Creedon  
Executive Officer

Enclosures: General Order R5-2013-0074 (Discharger only)  
Monitoring Report Transmittal Form (Discharger only)

cc: David Smith, U.S. EPA, Region IX, San Francisco (email only)  
Phil Isorena, State Water Resources Control Board, Sacramento (email only)